

with whatever authority we have, this will not happen again.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, before the distinguished minority leader departs, I join, as does the majority leader, in his request. As he may know, yesterday the Armed Services Committee had a 2-hour briefing with the top military leaders from the Department of the Army. Senator LEVIN and I felt it important to proceed very quickly. Following that, we had a press conference in which both Senator LEVIN and I spoke of the need for the Secretary of Defense, Mr. Rumsfeld, to come up.

I have been working on that steadily, and I can assure the leader, having talked to my leader last night, Senator FRIST—presumably shortly after the two leaders had discussed it—that Senator FRIST has joined with Senator DASCHLE and others to get that done.

I anticipate, however—and I think it is probably wise—that the President of the United States is going to address this issue, and I think immediately following that, I will presume, say, Thursday morning, tomorrow morning, that we could hope to have the Secretary before the Armed Services Committee. And then subject to the leadership, perhaps he could work with other Senators in another forum later sometime tomorrow. That would be my advice.

I commend the leader, my good friend, for his incorporation in his remarks the need for every Senator as they address this issue to reflect on the, as he said, 99.99 percent of extraordinary professionalism and courage rendered by the men and women in the Armed Forces, not just in Iraq, not just in Afghanistan, but all over the world. No one should have their wonderful works and sacrifices and those of their families in any way tarnished by these serious allegations.

I thank my good friend and leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, if I can respond, I thank the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee for his comments and for the work he has already undertaken to ensure many of these issues can be addressed. He has shown real leadership. I applaud that and look forward to working with him in the days ahead.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my good friend and colleague of many years.

I should now like to proceed, if the Chair will kindly advise this Senator the amount of time under the control of this side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 30 minutes in morning business under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

Mr. WARNER. I should like to take approximately 10 minutes of that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

SUPPORT FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, in my colloquy with the distinguished Democratic leader, I reviewed my great concern that as Senators—indeed, as people all over the United States and, indeed, the world—wish to address the extraordinary, tragic information flowing about alleged atrocities perpetrated by U.S. forces and perhaps others that they incorporate in every statement a reference to the courage, the sacrifice, of the men and women in the Armed Forces of our Nation, of the coalition forces who are fighting with us in Iraq, as well as Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world, and, indeed, the impact of this tragic series of revelations on their families back here at home, and to be ever mindful that in the United States and in the homes of the coalition forces in other nations are the wives, the children, mothers, fathers, and others who are in strong support of their loved one beyond the shores, and how ever so hard this story hits home with them.

I do hope my colleagues and others, as they address this issue, take the time to include reference to the valiant work being done by uniformed people of the armed forces of many nations and their families.

The allegations of mistreatment of the prisoners by some members of the Armed Forces, if proven, represent an appalling and totally unacceptable breach of military regulations and conduct that could—and I repeat—could undermine much of the greatest works and sacrifices of our forces in Iraq and around the world in the war on terror.

The vast majority of our men and women—as the Democratic leader said, 99.99 percent—fully understand their obligations to conduct themselves in accordance with military, national, and international standards, most particularly the standards of professional conduct that are taught each soldier, sailor, airman, and marine of our forces.

The mistreatment of prisoners, no matter what their reason for incarceration, is not what the uniform of the United States stands for. It is not what the United States stands for as a Nation. It is not the way for anyone who wears that uniform to conduct themselves.

The Armed Services Committee received a briefing from senior Army officials yesterday. We did receive a considerable amount of information that is not freely in the press today. I think in due course that information will be and should be shared publicly. Nevertheless, we have begun our probe of this particular case. I commend the committee for its actions so far. We had three-quarters of the members of the committee in attendance yesterday. There was a very vigorous questioning of the Army witness. While informative, the briefing revealed the need for more extensive public hearings from civilian and military offi-

cials. I made a request for such hearings immediately following our hearing yesterday. I was joined by Senator LEVIN, the ranking member.

We must always remember that under our Constitution, it is very clear in the long traditions of this country that civilians control the U.S. military. They have the ultimate responsibility of the actions of the men and women in uniform. They are the ones who promulgate the orders from the Commander in Chief, the President, to the unit commanders. Consequently, the civilians must accept that responsibility.

Secretary Rumsfeld, in a press conference yesterday, addressed the Nation. As I said, I have been in consultation with him and his office about an appearance, which I anticipate will take place very shortly following the public statements to be issued, I believe, today by the President of the United States.

I fully believe the most constructive course of action at this point is to fully understand the extent of this problem, no matter how much time it requires to gather all of the facts, no matter how difficult it is to get all of those facts, no matter how embarrassing those facts may be—get the facts out and the story, so that not only the Congress of the United States can reach its judgment but, indeed, the American public and others around the world, because this is an around-the-world story at this point in time.

Our great Nation has had a symbol of freedom and hope for its entire existence. The world looks to us as the standard bearer of how best to bring about freedom for others, how best to protect those values which we hold so dearly and for which men and women have gone forth for generations from these shores not to conquer or take land, but they have gone forth in the cause of freedom.

I believe in due course, once this story is fully understood, we will have the ability as a Nation to apologize to our Chief Executive, the President, through others, through this humble Senator, for the actions taken and, most importantly, give the assurances to the world that we will not ever again see a repeat.

I have had the privilege to have had association with the men and women of uniform for over 50 years. When I was a young sailor in the closing year of World War II, I began my career in the training commands of the U.S. Navy. I have had many opportunities in the ensuing years to work with the men and women of the U.S. military. During the war in Korea, I served as a marine. During the Vietnam war, I was privileged to serve over 5 years as the Navy Secretary. We had our problems during that conflict, but I doubt if any of those problems parallel the seriousness and consequences of this framework of allegations today.

Therefore, it is a duty upon us to leave no stone unturned, to reveal all

of the facts, to give the assurance that it will not happen again, and to place into the military such authorities as they need. I doubt if there is anything under statute law that needs to be added, but the authorities need to uphold those laws and regulations, and training should follow so that this will never be repeated.

Again, as we proceed over the next days and weeks, we must be mindful of the millions of men and women in uniform, past and present, who have honorably, with great sacrifice, defended the laws, rules, traditions, and values enshrined in the U.S. Constitution and in the American way of life. The actions of a few must not be allowed to tarnish that image.

Of course, I am very mindful of the fact that Memorial Day is in a few weeks, and we will dedicate a magnificent set of structures on our Mall to the men and women who served during World War II—some 16 million. I had the privilege of going down the other day with Senator Dole, a former colleague, whose wisdom and energies have contributed greatly to this magnificent memorial. As we walked there together with other Senators from this Chamber—totaling 7, who served in World War II—Senator Dole said that, yes, the monument stands as a symbol for the sacrifices of those in uniform, some 16 million, but he said it also stands as a monument and testimony of the homefront. Those of us who have memories of that period remember how well this country was unified. We had rationing; we had war production; we worked around the clock not only to supply and equip our troops but to provide equipment for our Allied forces. It was a magnificent chapter in American history. That cannot be tarnished by the actions of a few here.

There is clearly room for a constructive debate on how best to proceed in Iraq, but we must not allow recent events to obscure the overall stakes for our Nation and the world in this region. We must be unified in overall purpose that success in Iraq is essential and that we, the Congress, stand squarely behind our men and women in uniform.

Our troops in Iraq deserve this. They deserve the best support we can give them. To appear divided while our sons and daughters are in harm's way runs counter to the traditions of this Chamber. There should be debate, but let it be reasoned and measured, and focused on the way forward in this war on terrorism.

The brave young men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces have answered their Nation's call to service. They deserve nothing less than our absolute, unwavering commitment to their success. Nothing less.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Virginia for helping to explain to the world how sad all of us are about the developments in Iraq with the prisoners. I appreciate

the distinguished Senator, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, moving forward and asking Secretary Rumsfeld to come and testify in public. It is our hope that Secretary Rumsfeld will also brief the entire Senate, along with the distinguished committee. I appreciate the leadership of the Senator from Virginia very much.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank our colleague from Texas. Let me assure all that I have been in contact with Secretary Rumsfeld. There is no reluctance whatsoever on his part to come forward. He desires to do so, but I believe it should be following the Commander in Chief, the President, when he addresses indeed the Nation and the world in a short time.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Senator from Virginia and also agree that would be proper. The President should have the ability to represent the American people and the world. I know that he is going to do that in a very effective way. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I ask the Senator from Iowa to take the next 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

MEDICARE DISCOUNT CARD

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am going to address issues about the Medicare discount card, and I particularly want to respond to criticism that we heard yesterday from the other side.

Listening yesterday, as I did, and then listening today to the criticism about the high price of gasoline, I have come to the conclusion that over the last several days members of the other party have a guilt complex about some of the votes they have cast in recent months. For instance, only 13 out of 49 Democrats voted to break the filibuster on the national energy policy. If we had a national energy policy, they would not have any worry about high gasoline prices.

Then, of course, all but about 12 of them voted against the drug discount card to give seniors reasonably priced prescription drugs. So they come in and trash the bill we passed in a bipartisan way. I hope they realize they made big mistakes on some of their votes last year and suck it up and move on.

In regard to what was said yesterday about Medicare, first, yesterday was a very historic day for Medicare beneficiaries in my home State of Iowa and all the other 49 States. Before then, many beneficiaries paid some of the highest prices for drugs. Now they can begin shopping for a Medicare-approved discount card that will help them pay less, a lot less.

With discounts taking effect June 1, this program will provide Medicare beneficiaries with immediate savings on their medicines until the comprehensive Medicare drug benefit begins in 2006. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, beneficiaries will save \$4 billion to \$5

billion over the next year and a half on drugs. That is not chickenfeed. That is saving a lot of money for our seniors.

Older Americans and individuals with disabilities can choose a card that gets them the lowest prices on drugs they need.

Finding the best card could not be simpler. Contrary to what one of the Senators told us yesterday about how complicated this process is, they are hoping the seniors, whom they consider their political property, will believe them that it is complicated and they will not bother to look at it because it is too complicated. Do the seniors of America need to have Democrats scare them more?

This is how simple it is: Call 1-800-MEDICARE any time, 24 hours a day. They can call their State Health Insurance Information Program, SHIP as it is called, and get counselors at the local level. Most of them are very well-trained volunteers to help seniors decide. They can go online themselves if they want to, or with a family member, to compare prices offered by different cards.

They can find low or no-cost cards that include their neighborhood pharmacies, all by making one telephone call any time in a 24-hour day to a 1-800-MEDICARE number.

Using their Medicare-approved drug discount card, beneficiaries will save at least 10 to 25 percent on the cost of their drugs.

Like the drug benefit itself, the Medicare-approved drug discount card targets assistance to those most in need. Beneficiaries with low incomes, that is less than \$12,600 for an individual and \$16,900 for a married couple, will qualify for a \$600 credit this year, another new \$600 credit next year. If there are two in the family, that is \$1,200 this year and \$1,200 next year. If they do not carry it all this year, it can carry over to next year. If they do not use it all up before the new insurance program for prescription drugs is put in place, they can carry it over into 2006 until it is used up.

Some people have said these cards will not offer good discounts. That is what we heard yesterday. So I did some checking. To give an example, let us take a woman enrolled in Medicare in the largest city close to my farm, in Iowa, with an income of \$12,000 a year. Let us call her Helen, to be short. Helen needs to fill prescriptions for Celebrex, Norvasc, and Zocor. With no discounts, she would pay \$7,297 at her local pharmacies for these drugs from June of this year until the end of 2005. Helen goes to this pharmacy because she knows and trusts this pharmacy. She does not want to order her drugs through the mail.

With a basic discount card offered by this legislation, she would save \$1,213—that is 17 percent—off of her drugs. Now the \$1,200 by itself is a pretty big savings, but that is like giving her the drugstore.com price at her local pharmacy.